

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11265 071003Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00  
H-01 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /071 W  
-----125546 071009Z /14

O 070951Z SEP 77

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 11265

NOFORN

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, BE  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY; SEPTEMBER 6-7 POLITICAL  
DIRECTORS' MEETING: THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: BRUSSELS 10414

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SUMMARY: POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSS EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE  
AND ARAB REQUEST FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR (DE SCHOUTHEETE) TOLD  
US THAT EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD AN "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS"  
ABOUT THE ARAB REQUEST FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AS PART  
OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. HE SAID THE "MAJORITY VIEW"

WAS THAT EUROPEANS COULD NOT FOREVER KEEP AVOIDING SOME TYPE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS IF THEY WANTED TO KEEP THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE GOING. HE SAID SOME DIRECTORS "WERE VERY RELUCTANT TO OPEN THE DOOR" TO ANY KIND OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.

2. DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID THAT IF THERE WERE EVENTUALLY TO BE SUCH DISCUSSIONS, THE DIRECTORS DECIDED THAT THEY WERE TO BE VIEWED AS AN "EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION" OR A "DISCUSSION GROUP" AND IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED AS "NEGOTIATIONS." IF SUCH POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WERE TO TAKE PLACE AS PART OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS APPROVED THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSIONS:

-- THE EUROPEAN INTERLOCUTORS WOULD LISTEN, TAKE NOTE OF THE CONTENT, AND REPORT BACK TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS;

-- IF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE, THEY SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN A "LIMITED FORUM" (I.E. NOT WITH ALL ARAB STATES);

-- THE EUROPEANS SHOULD FIND OUT IN ADVANCE OF TALKS WHAT THE ARABS WISH TO TALK ABOUT. (THEY FULLY REALIZE THAT PALESTINE WILL BE THE MAIN ARAB TOPIC, SO THERE IS SOME ASPECT OF A DELAYING TACTIC TO THIS QUESTION.)  
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3. DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS LOOKED BRIEFLY AT A DOCUMENT ANALYZING THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND, AFTER SOME BRIEF COMMENT, SENT IT BACK TO THE WORKING GROUP FOR FURTHER STUDY. CHAMBERS

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009